The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS TEST OF CITIZENSHIP

Behind a nation's laws is the character and intelligence of its people.

One of organized labor's functions is to develop the nation's character and to diffuse knowledge that will aid this purpose. It is necessary, therefore, that trade unionists be constantly engaged in activity and agitation on the political field as well as the industrial field.

Wrongs that are buttressed by privilege will not disappear on the passage of a resolution. The collective mind can not be changed that quickly. Wrong must be attacked continuously until the conscience of the people is quickened and the evil disappears.

In this process one election is but part of labor's campaign.

Results are not based on the number of candidates that labor elects.

A more important gain, and which can not be computed, is the stimulus to justice through labor's vigorous canvas for support of its principles, its appeal to the intelligence of the electorate.

The present agitation against government by injunction illustrates this point. More people are acquainted with the injunction evil than ever before because of labor's challenge to and expose of the Wilkerson writ.

Trade unionists should avoid crude cynicism and cheap intellectualism on the uselessness of political activity. These people affect a "smart" pose. They would discourage political agitation, and leave a clear field for the agents of reaction and administration coercion.

There can be no progress through this philosophy of depression, negation and do-nothing.

Be intelligent public opinion is irresistible. It is a power greater than a thousand Niagaras. Labor should strive to unleash this force wherever possible.

A trade unionist alert to the patient work necessary to develop a solid public opinion will know that those forces that would thwart one will would enter this field, and who doggedly sets himself to that task is an effective foe to privilege and greed.

That trade unionist can not be discouraged. He knows his progress will be slow, but when public opinion is finally aroused, his reward will be correspondingly great.

Trade unionists should distinguish between the politics of the privilege hunter, the sinister spoilsman and office seeker from politics in its fundamental sense.

Politics should be the art of government, and government should assure equal justice to all.

As we receive from our trade unions only in proportion to the energy and intelligence we put into them, so we receive from government those values that our character and intelligence in the political field justify.

WOULD-BE DEFLATERS KEEP DOLLAR WAGE UP

New York, Oct. 21.—Wall street continues to demand that wages of workers be deflated.

But the wages of the dollar continue skyward.

There is no wage deflation for stockholders—deflation is for those who risk their lives and their health in the mines, and deflation may be rewarded—that it may secure a "fair return." As a result Wall street has just witnessed an orgy of melon cuttings and profit divisions that are unequalled, and more are promised. The Standard oil groups take the lead in dividing the spoils, and the reason for 28-cent and 30-cent gasoline is shown in the 400 per cent stock dividend by Standard oil of New Jersey. The capitalization of this company has been increased sixfold.

Other corporations have announced stock dividends and Wall street is wild with joy—but not too wild, however, for the hard-boiled profit takers to always insist that labor must be deflated.

The reason for the melon cuttings is to escape a federal law which provides a 25 per cent tax on undistributed earnings. Under the law profits must be divided before March 1 next or the government may seize one-quarter of them.

The melon cuttings is expected to reach its peak soon after the first of the year, and cease March 1, the time limit fixed by law for the distribution of 1921 profits.

RAIL BOARD HAS FAILED SAYS "SECOND GUESSER"

Athens, Ohio, Oct. 21.—In a speech in this city Secretary of Labor Davis joined the ranks of "second guessers." He said the railroad labor board is a failure and should be abolished. The first "second guesser" is former United States Senator Beveridge of Indiana, who made a similar declaration a few weeks ago in Columbus. Both now take the position that organized labor has always held regarding government boards that are intended to adjust differences between employer and employed.

Secretary Davis acknowledged that the railroad labor board has "demonstrated that it is incapable of fulfilling the high hopes of those who proposed and supported it as a means of industrial peace on the railroads." As a substitute, he favors conciliation through the department of labor. When organized labor favored developing this feature of the department of labor, capitalist influences attacked the department because William B. Wilson, union miner, was secretary of labor. When these influences went so far as to demand that the department of labor be abolished.

The repudiation of the railroad labor board by Messrs. Davis and Beveridge is but one of a series of declarations by those who desire to get rid of the anti-union element among railroad managers is also hostile to the board. These managers led by Attorney of the Pennsylvania and Loree of the Delaware & Hudson find that their company "unions" will serve the purpose, and the rail labor board is unnecessary.

Shop Men Signing Agreements; Fake "Unions" Used by Antis

Chicago, Oct. 21.—On motion by the department of justice, Judge Wilkerson has ruled that evidence on the shop men's injunction shall be referred to a master in chancery. This permits the judge to "get out from under," and now he will only be called upon to pass upon the master's report. Attorneys for the shop men insist that a jury trial be permitted as the charges involve violation of criminal law.

The shop men are waging their strike with vigor and are not permitting the administration's injunction to interfere with either their rights or their legal activities. Agreements have been reached on more than 112 roads. These include the largest systems in the country—Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Baltimore & Ohio, Chicago & Northwestern, New York Central, Chesapeake & Ohio, Boston & Albany, Chicago Great Western, the Big Four, the Monon route, Seaboard Air Line, and Erie.

It is announced that 16 railroads have formed company "unions" and that these have signed agreements with the roads. Or in other words, these roads have signed agreements with themselves.

In this list are the Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Southern Pacific, Illinois Central, Union Pacific and other roads that have opposed the organized shop men wherever possible.

The company "union" is a change from former open opposition to unions that is maintained through secret control of the "union" while publicly affecting an interest in the workers' welfare.

It is stated that these roads have agreed not to litigate if workers surrender their right to strike. It will be noticed that no individual rights of the railroad managers are surrendered, even though they agree that their corporations will no longer become involved in litigation with employes for the very good reason that employes have surrendered every right, thereby making it unnecessary for the roads to litigate.

MINE OWNERS AIDED BY TRICKY PUBLICITY

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 21.—The masterly manner in which publicity agents and propagandists can conceal a fact while deadening the public's opinion is illustrated in a special article in the San Francisco Chronicle on the Argonaut mine disaster. The article is headed "Criticism of Argonaut Mine Held Unjust. Company Acted With Safety Idea To Protect Employes."

The writer first depicts the tendency of the public to form hasty judgments and assures his readers that officers of the Argonaut did every thing possible to aid the rescue—which is undoubtedly true. He then states that "I am convinced there was no neglect or evasion of the established safety rules."

After these impressions are made on the reader—impressions that are intended to stick—the writer concludes his story with this statement:

"On June 1919 only 12 feet separated drifts in the Argonaut and Kennedy properties. These drifts were permitted to be as close to each other as was made to clear them out. The ore bodies had been worked out and the only possible reason for maintaining a connection between the two mines would have been through the safety of the employes. Had these drifts been clear the rescue work would have been comparatively simple. The Jackson miners would probably have escaped."

No indictment of the company could be stronger than this statement, written by one whose clear purpose is to defend the company and create in the public mind an alibi for mine owners.

The writer also makes the significant statement that "several mines in this state have auxiliary exits, but in every instance one of these shafts were sunk for development of ore bodies and not in the interest of the workers."

"We Dictated Laws" Is Employer's Boast

Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 21.—"We dictated laws" is the essence of an address by Kenesaw Mountain Landis, J. E. Edgerton, president of the Tennessee manufacturers' association, told a joint meeting here today.

"The compensation law was drafted by our government and by it," he said. "It was enacted just as we drafted it," said President Edgerton, who contended that his organization was responsible for the passage of the act just as long as possible.

"We succeeded in defeating the enactment of a compensation law until 1919, when we thought the time was ripe to place a law on the statute books or else one would be placed there by the labor unions.

Tennessee business men are warned by Mr. Edgerton that it is becoming hard and harder to stop extending the compensation law to every employer in this state.

"At the next session of the legislature it is not only going to be hard to keep this amendment off, but it is going to be difficult to prevent amendments materially raising the benefits of the law," he said.

"CANT-STRIKE" LAW FAILS.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 21.—If Allen's "anti-strike" law is a success, why should $100,000 be added to our taxes for the state militia to fight coal strike, and why didn't the industrial court end the coal and railroad strikes? asks E. T. McKinney, an attorney in this city.

"The last legislature appropriated $300,000 for the people's money to pay the expenses of this court and its commissioners and a number of rafts of judges, clerks, inspectors, deputy inspectors, accountants, reporters, stenographers, messengers, filing clerks, engineers, rate clerks and secretaries. As I have said, this court has never settled a strike."

WHERE TO FIND "NEWS."

Long Beach Cal., Oct. 21.—Read the financial department of the daily press if you want to find "news," Thomas F. Parrish, a banker connected with the federal department of labor, told delegates to the annual convention of the state federation of labor.

This trade unionist made the very pointed and correct statement that "the financial department of the newspaper, which is supposed to be only read by business men, is found to contain more 'news' than appears in the general news columns.

DEATHS AT MILLS.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Accidents at six of the textile mills operated by Union blast furnaces, operated in the United States last year, resulted in the death of 27 employes and the injury of 4,494, according to reports received by the bureau of mines. In the preceding year 61 employes were killed and 8,563 were injured. The reduction in fatalities and accidents can be traced largely to the heavy reduction of shifts worked in nearly every mill.

WON'T REDUCE WAGES.

Cincinnati, Oct. 21.—Members of the International Molders' union refused to reduce the wages of their officials. The plan was submitted to a referendum vote, and received but 1,314 votes out of a total of 12,041.

MARTIAL LAW ENDS IN MINGO COUNTY

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 21.—Gov. Morgan has ended martial law in Mingo county after that county is "broke" and large sums have been drawn from the state treasury. The union miners in their tent colony are as determined as ever.

The public press made no comment on the governor's proclamation, which ended martial law. While the governor's action was kind, the press treated it in the most sensational manner possible.

Had the press changed its attitude, says the West Virginia Federationist, the vicious system "has been repudiated by the courts of that county—its work completed—and no longer is there anything left for its sponsors to do but to slink off with their swag and sneak out like a thief in the night. So ends another disgraceful chapter in West Virginia labor history. The martial law was operating in Mingo county that section was in the hands of anarchists who were the tools of those who denied constitutional rights to citizens of West Virginia. Large numbers of workers were thrown in jail on faked charges, which the courts refused to sustain.

STATES CAN LEVY TAX.

Washington, Oct. 21.—The United States supreme court has ruled that states have the right to levy a special tax on incomes for a special purpose, such as the maintenance of public schools.

This was announced by the court in upholding the Massachusetts state law of 1919 providing for such tax on incomes to raise funds for paying higher salaries for public school teachers. Objectors failed to impress the court by their claim that the special tax is illegal in that it "forced a certain group (the income tax payers) to stand a burden for the benefit of others by all taxpayers of the state."

CITED FOR CONTEMPT.

New Brunswick, N. J., Oct. 21.—Chancellor Buchanan has cited striking fur workers to appear before him at Trenton and show cause why they should not be punished for violating an anti-picketing injunction. The chancellor said these workers can not picket. Now they will be punished, not for picketing, but for contempt of Mr. Buchanan's order.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Meriden, Conn., Oct. 21.—Electrical workers have secured wage increases. Helpers are also included. The contract runs for one year.

Political Prisoners Is National Scandal

Washington, Oct. 21.—"The spirit of anarchy rather than the spirit of law" is the keynote of a statement in the national Catholic welfare council bulletin on the treatment of political prisoners by the department of justice.

The bulletin, headed "The Political Prisoners: A National Scandal," says:

"Some 75 men are still confined in federal jails for written or spoken opposition to the war," it is stated. "All of these prisoners are accused of opposing war. None of them are serving time for disloyalty.

"All the other countries that participated in the war released their political prisoners within a year after the signing of the armistice. President Harding has told us that he refused to grant general amnesty. He declares that each case must be examined on its merits. If we are to judge by the rate at which the department of justice has moved up to the present in the examination of individual cases, the process will not improbably continue for two or three more years."

MAY HEAD MINE PROBE.

Washington, Oct. 21.—John Hays Hammond will probably be elected chairman of the fact-finding commission appointed by President Harding under an act of congress to inquire into the mining industry.

Prior to the appointment President Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, submitted the name of President Hammond of the Utah Fuel company, as the miners' representative on the commission. The president insisted upon a non-partisan commission and ignored the request.

IGNORE WAGE LAW.

Boston, Oct. 21.—Business men told a legislative committee that they are ignoring the state minimum wage law in their wage and declsions by the minimum wage commission.

Alfred E. Lunt, counsel for the Massachusetts industrial protective association, declared that the minimum wage law was tried out in the time of Queen Elizabeth and resulted in shattering the trade of that country.

ISSUE STOCK DIVIDENDS.

New York, Oct. 21.—The American Woolen company has declared a stock dividend of 50 per cent. This is the fifth dividend of this character since 1912.

PIG-IRON EDUCATOR ADVISES UNIONISTS

New York, Oct. 21.—Samuel Hayden Church is the latest individual who would calm the industrial sea by a few magic passes.

Mr. Church is president of Carnegie Institute and he explains the atmosphere of pig iron in discussing the trade union movement in the New York Times. He says labor should "assure the ablest brains in the nation for its guidance" and recommends Mr. Taft, Mr. Root or Mr. Hughes for the job. If these statesmen are not available, he himself will accept the presidency of the A. F. of L.

Mr. Church, in effect, proclaims that if the workers want a real "leader" they have but to look to an educational institution that reminds them of Homestead and Pinkerton detectives. To prove that he will be a "leader" of the drill sergeant type he tells what he will do with "my" men and with "my" treasury.

This educator brings joy to every union smasher by his denial of President Gompers' claim that there is a conspiracy to destroy organized labor. President Harding sustained this charge in the following portion of his recent message to congress:

"In the weeks of patient conference and attempts at a settlement (of the rail strike) I have come to appraise another element in the engrossing industrial dispute at which it is only fair to take cognizance. It is in some degree responsible for the strikes, and has hindered every effort at adjustment. I refer to the war on the unions of labor."

The chief executive's statement means nothing to Educator Church, who says:

"It is a curious mental process that brings Mr. Gompers to this illogical and absurd conclusion. * * * There is no plot; there is no conspiracy."

And then the good man proves the need for educating pig-iron educators by this statement that the goal of the unions is "the confiscation of property," the "overthrow of government," etc., etc.

ECONOMIC LEAGUE HEADED BY HOOVER

Washington, Oct. 21.—A new organization, designed as the national economic league of the United States, has elected Herbert Hoover its president. The purpose of the league, it is stated, is to give "the best thought of the country" an opportunity to mold national policies.

The league's committee consists of Frank A. Vanderlip, Roger Babson, John Hays Hammond, A. Lawrence Lowell, Nicholas Murray Butler, George B. Cortelyou, Frank O. Lowden, Alanson B. Houghton, Edward A. Filene and George W. Wickersham.

So long as governmental policies are formulated by party leaders, and as much thought is given to the votes as of meeting real needs, the best thought of the country cannot control public affairs," declares the league's program states.

HOW WAR PROFITEERS STOLE $2,150,000,000

Washington, Oct. 21.—One of the most sordid stories of war profiteering is contained in reports turned over to Representative Dempsey, chairman of the house committee on the Army and Navy, by Director of Air Service Patterson, it was learned today.

It is alleged that the manufacturers knew of the armistice before it was announced. These men, who were in Paris at the time, arranged with their confederates in Washington to have large contracts awarded them by the air craft board. Later, when the contracts were annulled by the government because of the armistice, the manufacturers collected large sums from the government as "liquidated awards."

Shipping Board's Contract Calls for Jap-Built Ships

Washington, Oct. 21.—A case before the claims commission of the United States shipping board is revealed, as it was learned that steel was to be bought in this country. The Japs were to pay the freight from San Francisco to their country. Later they agreed to pay the freight charges from Seattle to San Francisco. The Japs objected, however, when they were asked to shoulder additional charges in the nature of demurrage, storage, etc.

HAVE COURTS FOR RICH.

Canton, Ohio, Oct. 21.—Through the unwarranted use of the injunction process, courts of equity have become the courts of the rich," declared President Moore of the Ohio State federation of labor at the annual convention in this city.

"By this system of governmental government statutory enactment by our legislators have been rendered impotent. Judges have taken their place. Our country is a government of laws, not of men, for, by and for the people. At least in labor disputes it is a government of the judges and by the judges."

WELFARE WORK PAYS.

New York, Oct. 21.—So-called welfare work is nothing but a cold business proposition, according to President senttment, humanity or philanthropy, according to Judge Gary of the steel trust, who is quoted as follows in the daily press:

"During the last 15 years we have expended over $100,000,000 for welfare work alone. It pays in dollars and cents as a net result in profits, during the year, to make the most liberal expenditure in protecting the lives and persons of employes.

AIDING OUT-OF-WORKS.

New York, Oct. 21.—Organized charity work in this city have perfected a system of relief for their unemployed members. The plan provides for the abolition of all overtime; every effort to "place as many workers as possible in the shops under all circumstances," and to levy a 1 per cent assessment for the benefit of those who have been indirectly without jobs and are in destitute condition.

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Other corporations have announced stock dividends and Wall street is wild with joy—but not too wild, however, for the hard-boiled profit takers to always insist that labor must be deflated.

The reason for the melon cuttings is to escape a federal law which provides a 25 per cent tax on undistributed earnings. Under the law profits must be divided before March 1 next or the government may seize one-quarter of them.

The melon cuttings is expected to reach its peak soon after the first of the year, and cease March 1, the time limit fixed by law for the distribution of 1921 profits.

UNIONS WILL PROBE LABOR SHORTAGE TALE

Washington, Oct. 21.—A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison points to the correctness of labor shortage stories that are circulated in the public press, and has asked the various trade union centers to send to the A. F. of L. headquarters all evidence of labor conditions in their localities.

The labor official expresses the opinion that the purpose of these stories is "propaganda to prepare the public mind for legislation that will repeal all restrictive clauses in the immigration law and make it possible for the large employing interests of this country to have three million aliens at their beck and call to do the unskilled work of the country."

"If memory serves me right, steel corporations have a tendency to load up of wind and water. Other companies in the country have accumulated billions of dollars in surplus profits extorted from the people through the high prices they obtain to be distributed as stock dividends and thus escape federal taxation.

"Is it not significant in connection with the high prices and block methods that $500,000,000 in cash (not government bonds) is over-subscribed three times by the ambitious people who declared to congress that the high prices and profiteering tax law was imperative before the wheels of industry would be allowed to turn."

Mr. Frear said that the whole purpose of the anti-labor drive is the effort to get a sales tax had been perpetrated by the manufacturers that shouts "wolf" whenever its purposes are disclosed.

MILLIONS ARE LOST BY LEGALIZED FRAUD

Washington, Oct. 21.—The federal government is losing hundreds of millions of dollars of income taxes through legalized fraud," said legalized fraud, declared Congressman Frear in a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon.

The lawmaker opposes the secrecy which surrounds these tax rulings and directs attention to the supreme court decision which declared stock dividends non-taxable. One effect of this decision, said Mr. Frear, came to pass when Standard oil reported profits of over $1,000,000,000, aside from the regular dividends, and the New Jersey company squeezed such enormous profits from the public that a 400 per cent stock dividend was declared that is not taxable by the courts. He likewise announces that United States steel has set aside a $1,000,000 surplus, which will be issued as a stock dividend in addition to the regular dividends paid on preferred and common stock.

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Mr. Frear said that the whole purpose of the anti-labor drive is the effort to get a sales tax had been perpetrated by the manufacturers that shouts "wolf" whenever its purposes are disclosed.

MERGERS PROPOSED IN EVERY INDUSTRY

New York, Oct. 21.—Gigantic trusts continue to be formed, and the federal anti-trust laws are given as much attention by Wall street as the blue laws of the 17th century, yet on the surface looks as though eastern states.

Mergers are everywhere. Every industry can tell the same story of proposals to control plants and then capitalize them at figures far in excess of their actual worth. The largest mergers are found in the chemical, sugar, cotton, copper, hardware, tobacco, coal and oil.

The Anaconda copper company, the largest of its kind in the country, has absorbed the Chile Exploration company, the largest of its kind. Railroad and automobile mergers have just started.

In the packing industry a merger of the Armour and Wilson interests are creating, while the so-called independent status, competition has long since been replaced by understandings and "gentlemen's agreements" secretly arrived at. The United States supreme court recently outlawed open price associations, which were supposed to exchange information and advice between members, but in reality permitted a central office to send out figures that all members accepted.

Astute lawyers are devising ways to re-establish the open-price idea in a form that will be acceptable to the supreme court. This may be possible if capitalists continue to concentrate their energies for years to the end that the supreme court is alert to. This was shown in the steel trust case when the court agreed that the trust violated the law, and that profits were set at the "reasonable" figure. But the court refused to dissolve this illegal trust on the ground that such action might affect the nation's foreign trade.

WANTS ALIENS EXAMINED.

Washington, Oct. 21.—The mental and moral examination of all immigrants before their departure for America is recommended by Rev. Henry Alles Tupper in a report to Secretary of Labor Davis after a three months' visit to the countries of Europe. Mr. Tupper was deputized a special agent of immigration by the department of labor for this purpose.

The report also recommends "some machinery by which aliens may be protected when they enter this country, and accompanied to become useful American citizens.

The recommendations are similar to recommendations that Secretary of Labor Davis, who favors an espionage system over immigrants.

ELECTRIFYING NATION.

Cincinnati, Oct. 21.—"The possibilities of electrical development are unlimited," said Frank J. Watts, editor of an electrical publication, in an address to electrical contractors and dealers.

The speaker said that if "a few tons of cement" were dumped into the St. Lawrence river to make a dam, enough power could be created to solve the coal problem of New England. He said a recent survey of the Atlantic seaboard industrial region showed that it would take $155,000,000 to electrify this region, but it would result in a saving of $190,000,000 yearly.

MINIMUM WAGE BOARD.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Oct. 21.—The new minimum wage board includes Mrs. Harriet J. Ingram, president of the Garment Workers' union of this city. The board is now classifying industries of Alberta for the purpose of arranging meetings of representatives of employers and employed in the various cities.

Miners Out of Work 100 Days Every Year

Cleveland, Oct. 21.—Speaking before the American mining congress, H. Hadley, former president of the national coal association, terrified his audience by the alleged fact that miners work but 100 days in the year.

According to Mr. Bradley the loss in wages, as estimated by the American educational council, amounts to $450,000,000.

"Many figures would be approximately correct if the miner worked 200 days a year, but this he never does. Even in years when he is working under an agreement he is locked out between times and four months in the year. The industry, rather than the employer, is responsible for this idle time because there are too many mines operating for the demand. This necessitates layoffs, which vary in different sections, but rarely does the miner exceed 200 working days a year.

No statistics on wage losses because of coal strikes have any value if not based on the fact that every miner in the United States is idle between three and four months annually. The only difference between this situation and a general strike is that in the latter case the idleness all occurs at the same time, while in the former case it is spread throughout the year.

EX-SERVICE IMMIGRANTS USED TO SMASH WAGES

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Oct. 21.—Ex-service men discharged from Great Britain are shipped out here to break down agricultural wages that have been set by the New South Wales government. Trade unionists charge that there is an understanding between the government and the country promotion league, which has issued a circular offering to supply this labor to farmers at rates "ridiculously low. The circular says this rate is to be paid the immigrants who carry the definite experience." Knowing that their rate is far below the statutory wage, they are careful to add a clause that the scheme has the sanction of the authorities. It is certain that the immigrant will not "gain experience" too quickly, and in the meantime, Australian labor, who have pinned their faith to wages by law, are thrown on the streets.

METAL TRADES UNSAFE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 21.—The metal trades led all industries in this state in the number of industrial accidents during the first nine months of 1922, while the laundry industry was one of the safest, the state department of labor and industry announces in a statement correcting a report issued September 27, which listed the laundry industry as the most hazardous.

It is stated that there were 12,551 accidents in metals and metal products and only 113 accidents in the laundry industry.

MORE DIVIDENDS FOR OIL.

New York, Oct. 21.—The Vacuum oil company is expected to announce a stock dividend of at least 300 per cent. Only recently stockholders were paid a cash dividend of $7 a share. With the 300 per cent dividend and a reduction of the par value of the stock, the company has a surplus of more than $67,000,000 piled up.

DRY GOODS PRICES UP.

Chicago, Oct. 21.—The outstanding feature of the dry goods market is its steadily advancing prices and suggestions that further advances are likely.

DEATHS AT MINES.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Accidents at the 37 bituminous coal mines operated by the Consolidation Coal company, which is a subsidiary of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey, resulted in the death of 27 employes and the injury of 4,494, according to reports received by the bureau of mines. In the preceding year 61 employes were killed and 8,563 were injured. The reduction in fatalities and accidents can be traced largely to the heavy reduction of shifts worked in nearly every mill.

WON'T REDUCE WAGES.

Cincinnati, Oct. 21.—Members of the International Molders' union refused to reduce the wages of their officials. The plan was submitted to a referendum vote, and received but 1,314 votes out of a total of 12,041.

BIG GRAB IN SHIP SUBSIDY

Washington, Oct. 21.—In his monthly review of federal legislation and the acts of congress before adjournment, President Gompers makes this reference to the ship subsidy bill:

"Around the capitol it is said that if the bill becomes a law a group of men will purchase all the ships of the government, create a shipping corporation and then sell stock to a gullible public. That's the reason many members of congress give for opposing the ship subsidy bill; that it is not in the interest of the government but in the interest of a picked number of men who will be able to make great fortunes through selling stock to the people."

It is again announced that the president will call a special session of congress to force the bill through before the final adjournment, March 4.

It is expected that the vast amount of patronage at the disposal of the administration will hold practically every defeated congressman and senator of the majority party in line. There will be the greatest raids on the federal treasury this session ever known as congressmen and senators will hold office after the November elections until March 4. The prospect of securing one of the 24 life-long federal judgeships that are to be appointed will be a drawing card for every "lame duck" who may be wavering in the support of the bill, which will be strongly urged despite the fact that when he voted for the bill he knew that it was considered that there would be a deficit of $650,000,000 this fiscal year.

The treasury looters will strive desperately to pass the bill before March 4 when this congress finally adjourns. The claim that there will be no public building and no rivers and harbors improvements because of economy will guard the treasury for the ship subsidy grabbers.